GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH <u>ABSTRACT</u>

Public Servants - Revenue Department - Allegation of Corruption against Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, Mandal Revenue Officer, Vayalpadu Mandal, Chittoor District (now retired) - Departmental proceedings conducted under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1991 - Charges held proved-Imposition of 25% cut in pension for a period of two years - Orders - Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No. 813

Dated:24.05.2012 Read the following:-

- 1) From the D.G., A.C.B, Hyderabad, RC.No.199/RCT-TCT/2005, dt.17.05.2006.
- 2) Government Memo.No.51695/Vig.II(1)/05-2, dt.02.6.07.
- 3) From the C.C.L.A., Hyderabad, Letter No.VS-I(5)/2499/2005, dt.19.12.2009.
- 4) Government Memo.No.51695/Vig.II(1)/05-7, dt.03.02.2010.
- 5) From Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, M.R.O.(Retired), Written Statement of Defence, dt.29.03.2010.
- 6) Government Memo.No.51695/Vig.II(1)/2005-6, dt.14-9-2010.
- 7) From Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, M.R.O. (Retired), Representation, dt.07.10.2010.
- 8) Government Lr.No.51695/Vig.II(1)/2005, dt.10.02.2012.
- From the Secretary, A.P.P.S.C., Hyderabad, Lr.No.456/RT/3/2012, dated 12.04.2012.

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ORDER:

In the reference 1st read above, the Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau has reported that Sri S.Jaya SekharRaju, Mandal Revenue Officer and Sri V.Pundarika Chary, Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer, Vayalpadu Mandal, Chittoor District were trapped by the Anti-Corruption Buerau authorities on 27.10.2005 for demand and acceptance of illegal gratification from Sri Avala Amarnadha Reddy, Budidavedu Village of Vayalpadu for doing an official favour. The Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau has recommended to prosecute the above Accused Officers in a Court of Law. After examining the matter, Government have issued orders to initiate departmental action against the above Accused Officers instead of Prosecution and vide reference 2nd read above requested the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration to initiate departmental proceedings against the above Accused Officers after obtaining article of charges etc. from the Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Hyderabad.

2. Accordingly, the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Hyderabad has framed charges against Sri S.Jaya Sekhar Raju, former Mandal Revenue Officer and Sri V. Pundareekachari, Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer and the Charged Officers have submitted their explanations denying the charges, hence, the Joint Collector, Chittoor was appointed as Inquiry Authority to enquire into the charges against them and the Enquiry Officer after conducting enquiry has submitted Enquiry report holding that the charges against Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, Mandal Revenue Officer (now retired) are held proved. In the reference 3rd read above, the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Hyderabad has furnished a copy of the enquiry report to

conclude the disciplinary proceedings under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980 as the Charged Officer Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, Mandal Revenue Officer retired from service on 31.08.2008. In the Government Memo 4th read above, a copy of the enquiry report was communicated to Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, Mandal Revenue Officer, Vayalpadu Mandal, Chittoor District to submit his representation on the findings of the Enquiry Officer.

- In the reference 5th read above, the Charged Officer has submitted his representation stating that Smt.P.LakshmiDevi, member of Shanthi Mahila Mandali was appointed as Fair Price Shop Dealer of the village by the Sub-Collector, Madanapalli vide Proceeding dt.03.04.2003. Aggrieved by the said appointment Smt.B.Hemalatha another member of Shanthi Mahilamandali of the same Village preferred an appeal before the Joint Collector, Chittoor. After hearing both the parties, the Joint Collector, Chittoor vide his orders dt.15.09.03, set aside the orders passed by the Sub-Collector, Madanapalli and remanded the case to the Sub-Collector to appoint suitable Group as Fair Price Shop dealer taking the consent of the all the member of the group. Aggrieved by the above orders, Smt. P.Lakshmi Devi filed W.P.No.11872 of 2004 in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and the Hon'ble Court in its interim orders dt.16.07.04 ordered to maintain status quo. Subsequently, the Hon'ble High Court disposed the Writ Petition on 13.09.05 with a direction to the Sub-Collector, Madanapalli to complete the enquiry as ordered by the Joint Collector, Chittoor and dispose of the case within a period of four weeks.
- Sri S.Jayasekhar has further submitted that the Mandal Revenue 4. Officer, Voyalpadu was not the respondent in the Writ Petition and no action lies with him in his office either on completion of enquiry in the remanded case or on appointment of a suitable group as Fair Price Shop dealer and the issue is totally in the Office of the Sub-Collector, Madanapalle. He informed the same to the complainant when he used to come to his office for appointment of his wife Smt.P.Lakshmi Devi as Fair Price Shop dealer. The complainant under wrong impression that the issue was pending in his office to which there was delay in finalizing the case. The Anti-Corruption Bureau authorities without verifying the correctness of the allegations and his antecedents registered the case and laid an unsuccessful trap. phenolphthalein test conducted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau proved negative and the tainted amount was recovered from the Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer, Sri Pundareekachary who gave a written statement deposing before the Anti-Corruption Bureau authorities on the day of the trap that the Mandal Revenue Officer was no way concerned with the issue and not demanded any amount from any body. As said by the Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer, the amount pertains to the loan amount taken by the complainant from him i.e., the Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer. The Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer gave a different statement before the Inquiring Authority that he took the amount at the behest of the Mandal Revenue Officer. The Inquiring Authority accepted this ignoring his earlier statements. The Anti-Corruption Bureau authorities received the complaint on 27.02.05 at 9.00 a.m. and completed all the required formalities in a single day is unbelievable and it would establish that the trap was a pre-planned and fabricated and conducted in hasty manner without verifying his antecedents before the trap.
- 5. Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju finally requested to drop further action against him by considering his submissions sympathetically as he was innocent and the complaint was false, fabricated and foisted against him.

- 6. Government, after examining the matter have provisionally decided to impose a punishment of 25% cut in pension for a period of two years on Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, Mandal Revenue Officer (Retired). Accordingly, a show cause notice was issued to the Charged Officer Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, Mandal Revenue Officer (Retired) with a direction to submit their representation, if any, in the matter vide reference 6th read above.
- In the reference 7^{th} read above, Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, Mandal Revenue Officer (Retired) has submitted his representation stating that he was not trapped by the Anti-Corruption Bureau authorities and the Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer was caught red handed. That the tainted amount was not recovered from his possession and the amount was recovered from the Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer and the chemical test conducted on him was proved negative and proved positive on Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer. He has further stated that the Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer Sri V. Pundarikachary was successfully trapped and he being a responsible Government Servant gave different statements contradicting each other which shows his (Mandal Revenue Officer) innocence. He has also stated that the appointment of Ration shop dealer of Budidaveedu Village of Vayalpadu Mandal was not pending in the Mandal Revenue Officer's Office and it was pending in Sub-Collector's Office, Madanapally as the Sub-Collector is appointing authority of ration shop dealer and the Sub Collector is the respondent in Writ Petition filed by the Complainant but not the Mandal Revenue Officer. He is no way connected with demanding and acceptance of illegal gratification from the complainant. He has therefore, requested the Government to consider his case sympathetically on humanitarian grounds and exonerate him from the case and pass final orders as he was innocent and the complaint was false fabricated and foisted against him.
- Government, after careful examination of the matter have observed that though Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, Mandal Revenue Officer (now retired) was not caught red handed and the tainted amount was not recovered from him, the handing over of Rs.2,000/- to the Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer in the presence of Delinquent Officer (Mandal Revenue Officer) is established and the complainant has categorically stated that he has handed over the amount to Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer and Deputy Mandal Revenue Officer has accepted the amount on behalf of the Mandal Revenue Officer and hence it cannot be totally ruled out the role of Mandal Revenue Officer in the entire episode by way of tacit connivance is proved and the explanation submitted by the Delinquent Officer is not sufficient enough to absolve him from the Government have therefore, decided to confirm the provisional decision taken to impose a punishment of withholding of 25% pension for a period of two years against Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, Mandal Revenue Officer (Retired) after due consultation with the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission. In the reference 8th read above, the Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission was requested to place the proposal before the Commission for their concurrence and communicate the same to Government and in the reference 9th read above, the Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission has informed that the commission has agreed with the proposal of Government. Government after careful examination of the matter hereby order to impose the punishment of withholding of 25% pension for a period of two years against Sri S.JayasekharRaju, Mandal Revenue Officer (Retired).

9. The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Hyderabad is directed to take necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

ASUTOSH MISHRA PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

То

Sri S.Jayasekhar Raju, Mandal Revenue Officer (Retired), Vayalpadu Mandal, Chittoor District **through** the Special Chief Secretary & the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Hyderabad.

The Special Chief Secretary & the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Hyderabad

Copy to:

The Collector, Chittoor District.

The District Treasury Officer, Chittoor.

The Accountant General, A.P., Hyderabad.

The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Hyderabad.

S.c./ S.f.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER